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PATENT Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. **02372.0099-00000**

JAN 0 8 2008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Philip James IONS and Mark HAYTON) Group Art Unit: 1742
National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390 Under 35 U.S.C. 371))) Examiner: (Unknown)
Application No.: 10/593,063) LXaminer. (Onknown)
Filed: September 15, 2006)) Confirmation No. 6465)
For: DIRECT SMELTING PLANT	

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

STATUS INQUIRY

According to our records, the above-identified application is pending. This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390, and was filed on September 15, 2006 in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Enclosed are copies of the stamped post card receipts. To date, no other communication has been received by this office. A review of the status of this application in PAIR revealed that this "Application Undergoing Preexam Processing."

In view of these circumstances, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests that the Office advise him of the status of this application as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 8, 2008

Stephen L. Peterson Reg. No. 26,325



National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390 under 35 U.S.C. 371, for DIRECT SMELTING PLANT

Inventor(s): Philip James IONS and Mark HAYTON

MAIL STOP PCT

1. Check in the amount of \$1050.00

2. Transmittal Letter concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. (Duplicate)

3, First Preliminary Amendment.

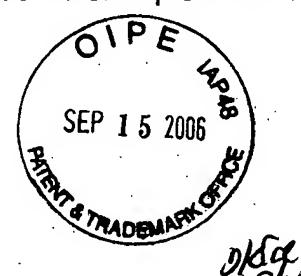
- 4. Copy of International application as filed comprising 20 sheets, including 23 claims, and 15 sheets of drawings.
- Information Disclosure Statement and Information Disclosure Citation, PTO-SB-08 with documents attached.
- 6. Cover page of WIPO Publication No. WO 2005/090613 A1
- 7. Copy of International Search Report from the Australian Patent Office

Dated September 15, 2006

Docket No.: 02372.0099

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 22,852 EFC/FPD/gah Mail Drop 610A (Due Date: September 17, 2006)

JAN 0 8 2008



IAP7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 SEP 2006'

PLEASE ACCORD THIS APPLICATION A U.S. SERIAL NUMBER AND CONFIRM DATE OF SUBMISSION OF THE APPENDED PAPERS

National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU2005/000390 under 35 U.S.C. 371.

Inventors:

Philip James IONS et al.

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SERIAL NO.:

10/593063

SUBMISSION DATE:

MP

Dated: September 15, 2006 Case Ref: 02372.0099

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